

MAY

1975

AT THE CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

MAY MEETINGS

Dates & Times: Matinee, 2:30 p.m., Wednesday May 14
Evenings, 8:00 p.m., Wednesday and Thursday, May 14-15

Place: May Treat Morrison Auditorium

Speaker: John Smail and Roberta Tasley

Subject: "THE FARALLONES" ("Seven Islands Ride the Sparkling Seas")



On the premise that few people actually are acquainted with the glories of life existent now on the Farallon Islands, Mr. Smail, Director of the Point Reyes Bird Observatory, and Mrs. Tasley, a concerned citizen and active conservationist, have conceived and put together this noteworthy program as a vivid example of man's capabilities in changing evil into good. Historically, this largest of all seabird breeding colonies contiguous to the United States almost suffered complete destruction. However, after decades of man's inclination to plunder, the appointment of Point Reyes Observatory biologists as protectors of the Farallones reversed the destructive agent for which we all should be properly grateful.

Through the eyes of three photographers, Ian Tait, William Parsons and Robert Boeke, we are able to look at this reborn area, reminded the while of Doestoevski's perceptive words: "Everything, like the ocean, flows and comes into contact with everything else: touch it in one place and it reverberates at the other end of the world".

The color slides are accompanied by the narration of Mr. Smail and Mrs. Tasley together with music.

MORRISON PLANETARIUM

"SKYLIGHT" continues in the Theatre of the Stars through June 8 where all sorts and kinds of surprises are in order — phenomenal literally — what with Southern Lights, sun dogs, halos, lunar and solar eclipses and one smasher of a thunderstorm taking over the planetarium dome. Performances daily at two with evening shows, Wednesday and Thursday, at eight. Extra matinees on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays at 3:30.

"LASERIUM" is the special feature on weekends. Nine "production numbers" of radiant light, color and music difficult to describe. Members are reminded that this is **not** a planetarium show **nor** are your membership tickets or passes usable for this attraction. "Laserium" is presented on Friday, Saturday and Sunday at 7:30, 9:00 and 10:30 with extra shows at 4:45 on Saturday and Sunday. Tickets are \$3.00 and available at Bay Area Seating Service outlets (Pacific Stereo stores, Discount Record stores, and Montgomery Ward. They will also be available at the planetarium box-office (if not sold out) at the time of a particular performance.

SPECIAL EXHIBITS

"THE GENIUS OF BENIAMINO BUFANO" continues to attract record crowds to Lovell White Hall and adjacent areas. The extent of this legendary San Francisco artist's talents is a source of amazement. Sculptures in a variety of materials, elaborate mosaics, simple and complicated drawings, water colors and paintings — all here to delight the eye. Continues through the entire year.

"SKYLAB" is on view in Hohfeld Gallery — a look at America's most recent adventure in space that includes models, photographs, pieces of equipment and other items loaned through the kind cooperation of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. Continues into autumn.

"CETACEA" remains in Cowell Hall with the accent on marine mammals — whales, porpoises, dolphins. Continues indefinitely.

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ADVANCE NOTICE OF MONTHLY ACADEMY MEETINGS

June 11-12, July 16-17, and August 13-14

News and Notes



Photo by Dave Powell

Eerie, mysterious, unbelievable, mind-boggling — one of these descriptions is certain to apply when looking into the ebon depths of Tank #14 in Steinhart Aquarium. In recent history, nothing has equaled (nor is it apt to in the near future) the finny residents therein.

At first glance, the tank seems totally black or perhaps empty. Then, strange little saucers of bright green light start blinking on and off, moving all the while, circling in and out of the scarcely visible miniature rock cairn resting on the aggregate.

What you are seeing (or almost so) is a group of bioluminescent "flashlight fish", genus *Photoblepharon*, family Anomalopidae. They were collected during the recent coelacanth expedition that took place during the months of February and March and are proving to be a source of wonderment in the world of aquatic biology. These are the only such aquarium residents in the world and if you don't plan an early visit, you will have missed a rare experience.

Their capture took place in the waters off Grand Comoro island near Madagascar and the coast of Africa. They were taken by John McCosker and David Powell of the Steinhart staff on a moonless night at depths ranging from ten to 200 feet. The Comorans call these oddities "Petits Peugeot" resembling, as they do, diminutive automobiles with their lights on. The fish are comparatively small. The light organ (not eyes but placed just below them — see photo) continuously emit a radiance and the blinking is caused by eyelidlike shutters that rise to block the light. Visiting scientists are most excited by the discovery that this, apparently, is the only known organism to use its own bioluminescence to locate food.

The fishes are displayed under red light (their retinas are apparently insensitive to red)

and though one cannot actually make out the conformation of the bodies you'll still be enchanted and incredulous at this lighting arrangement. *AIR FRANCE* brought them to us safely — some 12,000 miles — and so it's "Hat's Off!" to everyone involved.

Further research is currently underway as to these intriguing finds and a promise is made to keep you posted. Meanwhile, "beeline it" to Tank #14. It's a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

RECENT SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS OF THE CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

OCCASIONAL PAPERS

"A Revision of the Deltocephaline Leafhopper Genus *Giprus* Oman (Homoptera: Cicadellidae: Deltocephalinae)". Jane R. Sawbridge. No. 114. January 16, 1975.35c

"Diplocentrid Scorpions from Baja California Sur, Mexico (Scorpionida: Diplocentridae)". Stanley C. Williams and Vincent F. Lee. No. 115. January 16, 1975.50c

"Revision of *Paraphrynus* Moreno (Amblypygida: Phrynididae) for North America and the Antilles." Carolyn L. Mullinex. No. 116. January 16, 1975.\$1.00

"Description of a New Cockle (Mollusca: Bivalvia) from the Pliocene of Northern California". Barry Roth and Robert R. Talmadge. No. 117. January 16, 1975.25c

"An Analysis of the W. G. Wright Butterfly and Skipper Plesiotypes in the Collection of the California Academy of Sciences". J. W. Tilden. No. 118. January 16, 1975.50c

TRAVEL NOTES

The Academy is repeating one of its most successful trips for members — to the White Mountains to inspect the BRISTLECONE PINES, Mono Lake, Bodie and environs July 3-6. Participants will travel in an air-conditioned bus and will spend three nights in a motel in the Mammoth Lakes area. Return will be via Yosemite. Cost is \$100 per person based on double occupancy with \$22.50 additional for single supplement. Includes transportation, motel lodging and picnic lunches each day. Minimum of 35. Reservations should be made to Gulliver's Travel, 3597 Sacramento Street, San Francisco. Telephone (415) 346-4400.

Because of great interest, we have scheduled a second section of the STANISLAUS RIVER RAFTING TRIP, details of which can be found in your March NEWSLETTER. All details

are the same except that this trip will begin one day earlier (Saturday, May 24 through Sunday May 25).

Some spaces remain on the PUEBLO COUNTRY trip scheduled for May 24-June 1. For details of this fascinating itinerary, see your March NEWSLETTER or telephone Gulliver's Travel at (415) 346-4400.

Finally, we invite you to come to the EAST AFRICA SYMPOSIUM on Saturday, May 17 from 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. for an armchair trip to that exciting area of the world. Open to all at \$10 per person. Questions and registrations should be directed to the Education Office of the Academy. Phone 221-4214.

ROBERTA REILAND

1936 - 1975

The tragic circumstances surrounding our friendly co-worker's death are difficult to accept. Her kindness and cordiality were evident always: humor and cheerfulness too. The loss of these qualities that brightened our daily labors is sorely felt by those who knew and were fond of her. It is a sad time for us all.

The Docent Council

is still very much on the look-out for interested members who would enjoy becoming trained museum guides. The next basic course for trainees begins in October and continues for 22 weekly sessions. Now is a good time to start planning your autumnal activities and much pleasure (and knowledge) can be derived from this worthwhile pursuit. For information about applications and interviews call the Docent Office, 221-4214, weekdays from nine until two.

MEET THE STAFF

ANITA M. NOLDEKE, Curatorial Assistant in the Department of Botany, has been an integral part of that activity since November 1958 though her Academy association predates that considerably, for she became acquainted with the California Botanical Club in the early 30s and came to know Alice Eastwood, the legendary botanist.

Miss Noldeke is a native of San Francisco, born on Pine Street, and her school names



have the familiar ring of Emerson, Hamilton and Lowell.

Her first vocational experience was as a music teacher for young people, but that all changed when she took on the responsibility of raising her nephew, Ted, age nine months, and she has been a surrogate mother since, traveling with her brother and his various pursuits in Inyo, Mono and Sonoma Counties over the years. All the while, however, she was in touch with the Department of Botany, attending meetings as she could, and forwarding botanical specimens as they were collected.

When Miss Noldeke's family returned to San Francisco for permanent residence, she volunteered her services to her favorite department, and when an opening occurred in 1958, she became a paid, part-time member of the staff. In the interim, she has preserved and mounted literally thousands of specimens that, because of her efforts, have contributed to the department's reputation.

The passing of time has not altered in any way her initial love of music be it symphony, opera, ballet or theatre for she continues to attend whenever possible. It should be noted that she is the Department of Botany's premier cookie-baker.

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MAY 1975

No. 425

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